

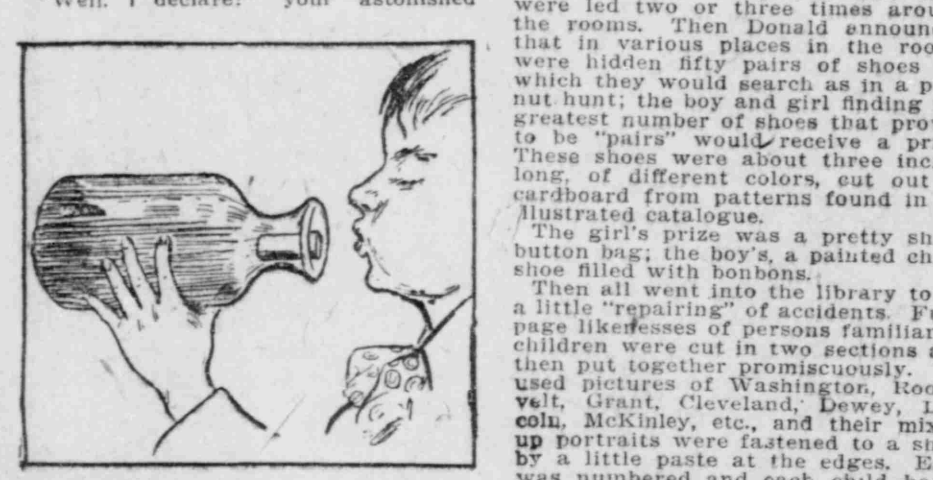
Picture To Paint.



GERTRUDE is a very bright young girl. But, better than that, she is a very sweet girl, and her little sister, Madge, and her little brother, Billy, love her dearly. Almost every day, when they are tired of playing, they rush to Gertrude and beg her, please, to read them a story. So Gertrude takes Andersen's Fairy Tales or Swiss Family Robinson or some other lovely story book and they run out to the garden and sit under the trees. And Gertrude reads so well that it is just delightful to listen to her. Now, let's see how well you little boys and girls can color this picture of Gertrude and her little sisters.

The Experiments of Tom Tit

HERE are a couple of experiments which I know you will enjoy, boys and girls. The first is an experiment with air, and a curious one, too. Take a carafe or a large bottle with a fairly wide neck and, holding it horizontally, lay a cork in the neck. Then say to some friend, "I defy you to blow that cork inside the bottle so that it will stay there."



friend will ejaculate, "how do you explain that?" Is the cork bewitched? The explanation is simple enough, after all. The bottle is full of air, of course, you understand. Well, when you blow your breath hard against the cork, you cause a sudden compression of the air that is inside the bottle, and when you cease your blowing, this compressed air immediately expands to its former volume, thus pushing the cork back in its original place in the neck of the bottle.

A Bowling Match.

COVER an extension table with a bright wooden cloth. Across it, near one end, form an arch. Cover and decorate two baking powder cans; make a hole in the top of each, into which place a long-handled Japanese fan, greedily painted. Decorate the handle with ribbons, running the ribbons up the stick to the top of each fan and across the opposite one, thus forming an arch. Present each boy with a clay pipe and each girl with a small fan, to which is attached a tally card. Fill a bowl with soap suds made of soap, warm water and glycerine. The boys and girls on opposite sides of the table. The boy nearest the head of the table takes the bowl, and with his pipe blows a bubble and drops it on the table. His partner, the girl opposite him, fans it, endeavoring to make it go through and pass the arch without breaking. If it passes successfully, a gold star is placed on the tally; if it breaks before reaching the arch, a green star denotes the player's failure. After receiving their stars the boy and girl pass to the foot of the table, and the next boy and girl move up and try their skill at blowing bubbles. The game is ended in six rounds, after which the bubble-blowers receive a pretty pipe, decorated with ribbon, and a small fan as a reward. The bubbly prize consists of a little paper balloon.

"Walking-Stick Insect."

THE "walking-stick insect" of Brazil is one which has attracted a good deal of notice amongst students of natural history. Its huge insect can scarcely be called a "stick," since it is a species of which thousands may be found in certain parts of Brazil. It is very difficult to obtain, however, because it so nearly resembles the twig of a tree in appearance that one could easily pass hundreds of them and never know it. It is about eighteen inches long.

How About This Bull?

A bull has forty rods to travel to reach a tramp, and the tramp has thirty-two rods to travel to reach the fence. If the bull travels one-fourth faster than the tramp, how close will the latter come to getting the grand hoist?

Hans Snuff and the King of Rats

HANS SNUFF sat in the old cobwebby, dust-covered, old mill, smoking his pipe slowly and seriously, and puzzled his brain for a plan to rid the building of rats. They were the bane of his life, and bothered him of nights by scampering over his head. They ransacked his pantry and built their nests in his cupboard. As he smoked and planned for their death, he could hear faint squeaks from their snug houses and stuffy corners under the sacks of flour. No doubt they were communing upon the appearance and also planning in their way to do five times as much damage as formerly.

It was easy to see that Hans Snuff had lived in the mill all his life, for it seemed as if either he had grown much like the mill, or else it had patterned after his appearance. Hans was short and squat, so was the mill; Hans wore an old coat, yellow with age and stained by the flour; the mill was of the same dingy yellow white. In but one thing did they differ—Hans had the rats of the mill with a fine hate; the mill seemed to love them in its dry, dusty corners and floors, protecting them from all his efforts beyond traps.

But with traps Hans had quite a reputation, and when the rats were caught he would speedily introduce them to Tom, a large cat, with gray and white stripes. From the loft Hans could see across country to where the dike spread, all yellow in the sunshine; beyond it the sea. Hans never left his mind. He had just about settled the case of every whistler fellow in the country, when a very funny thing happened. The sun ran across the sky and plunged downward into the sea. The dike seemed to dance a jig, and Tom, the cat, in the window, grew smaller and smaller, until he at last disappeared. The sails of the mill stopped, and the little red-roofed house on the hill turned into a tree.

"Surely," said Hans, "surely something strange has come to this part of the country." He glanced downward toward the grinding stones, and there—there sat the largest gray rat he had ever seen. It was an old fellow, with whiskers nearly six inches long, and a tail that seemed to be broken in one or two places. One of his eyes was gone, and the other stared stupidly of ribbons, and hung limp. He had a very funny cap on his head, something Hans had never seen of a rat's head before. Hans was so astonished that a rat should come out on his millstone and brave him that he slipped off the floor and smashed to little bits.

"That is the very rat," said Hans to himself. "That I threw the stove lid after three days ago." The old fellow stuck his head on one side, as if to better view Hans with the good eye, and stroked his whiskers in a most comical fashion. "Hans Snuff, Hans Snuff, you're a bad man!" squeaked the rat. "Well, I am a king," said the rat, "and I've come to have a talk with you. Hans Snuff, and tell you what I think of you. You threw a stove lid at me the other day, Hans Snuff, and I have only to thank that cast in your right eye that the rats are now holding a convention over a new king. It was a heavy stove lid, Hans Snuff, and had it hit me fair I would have been a very sick rat. You should be ashamed of yourself, Hans Snuff!"

"I'll never do it again," said Hans. "You'd better not. Don't you see how your mill is stopped and the sun run down? We've managed all that because of the stove lid. You are setting above yourself, Hans Snuff; you're a naughty boy." Hans gasped. "Boy! Why, I'm an old man, I'm—" "You're not near so old as the King of the Rats, I know," said the rat, "father, Hans Snuff; and by the way, you've broken his life yellow pipe. He was a much better man than you, Hans Snuff, and I fail to remember any stove lids of his." The rat moved into a more comfortable attitude, then continued: "Now, you see, Hans Snuff, the rats are tired of your ways, and all those 300 tribes of Holland rats, including the pink-eyed rats, the gray-striped rats and the Norway rats, and burrow through the dike and let the greedy sea in on you."

A Horned Rat.

IN a certain wretched hovel in England, close to the Thames, lived a family who are so accustomed to the sight of rats racing across the floor that they think very little about the nuisance. Last October, however, the wife was startled on seeing, peeping from under the grate, the head of a large, healthy-looking rat, graced with a pair of thin, but beautifully-curved horns.

Fish That Cannot Swim.

MORE than one species of fish is met with that cannot swim, the most singular of which, perhaps, is the maltha, a Brazilian fish, whose organs of locomotion which enable it to crawl or walk or hop, after the manner of a toad, to which animal this fish to some extent bears a resemblance, and it is provided with a long, upturned snout. Other examples of non-swimming fishes include the sea-horse, another most peculiarly shaped inhabitant of the sea, and the starfish, of which there are many specimens, which walk and crawl on the shore and rocks, both being unable to swim.

Can You Figure This?

James has a large hunk of gingerbread and Joseph has none. In going a distance of twenty feet things are reversed, and Joseph has all the gingerbread and James all the surprise. How many feet would Joseph have to travel to get all the gingerbread in the bakery?

Arithmetic in Jest.

In going along the street a dog is chased at the rate of six miles an hour. That Smith boy throws a stone at him, which speeds at the rate of thirteen miles an hour. How long before the stone overtakes the dog, and before justice overtakes the boy?

Can You Tell?

A goat, worth \$1.75, was tied up in a shed along with half a dozen joints of stowepipe, worth 25 cents each. What was the difference between the worth of the goat and the value of the pipe eaten?

Pussy's Unexpected Bath



PUSSEY often asked, "What is the sea like?" First he asked papa. Then he asked mamma, and then big brother, and then big sister, and when visitors came to see the family, every one of them had to meet the same question from curious Puss. "What is the sea like?" But none could tell him. Captain Angora at last gave Puss the next thing to a satisfactory answer. "See here, Puss, I don't know any more than anybody else by actual experience what the sea is like, but this is what I'll do: Next time I come I'll bring the sea to you."

Children's Cunning Sayings

BABY MEG was supposed to be saying her piece of poetry to her father. "Little drops of water, little grains of sand, make a mighty stream, but just then she flew off to catch the kitten, so at last father said: 'Come, come, Meg, what do they make?' 'Mud pies,' said Meg, who had quite forgotten the rest of the verse.

The Busy Bee's Errand

Puzzle: What three flowers are 1, 2 and 3? "O BUSY BEE! Where are you roaming. And where are you roaming today?" "The Queen Bee wants honey for breakfast and I am now on my way."

Toes of an Infant

"The — (1) ope to receive me. The — (2) cries to me. 'Come!' The Columbine has some all ready. On hearing the sound of my hum. 'A most I was caught by a robin. Friend — (3) protected me. For just as he dipped to secure she whispered, 'Creep into my bell.'"

A Boy's Observations

SIS takes calisthenics. Injun clubs and deck. Reaches for her toes ten times. And each time makes 'em touch. Raises up her arms and sweeps 'em all around. Kicks her heels three times without ever touching ground.

Star Traveling Costly.

SIR ROBERT BALL tells us what it would cost to reach one of the most distant stars, supposing railway were constructed to it from London, and that a low rate of 2 pence per mile was charged. If the intended passenger could present to the booking clerk the whole of the national debt of the United Kingdom, a sum exceeding \$3,350,000,000, he would require 6,000 huge carts to convey it in sovereigns to the star's office.

Game of Minister's Cat.

THE players sit down in a circle or in two opposite rows. The first player begins by saying: "The minister's cat is an ambitious cat, and so on until all have named an adjective beginning with 'A.' When you play the game, do not permit any one to use the two adjectives given above, but require them to think up adjectives of their own."

Can You Boys Answer?

Harry and Oscar were caught in a pear tree on which there were thirty-three pears. The owner of the orchard gave Harry forty-two blows with a switch, and then turned on Oscar and gave him twenty-seven. How many more blows did Harry receive than Oscar? If each boy had eaten his fill, how many pears would have been left?



Puzzles and Problems

Answers to Last Week's Puzzles and Problems

Arithmetic Puzzle.

The figure is 6, making the problem read as follows: 26 116 66 294

Riddles.

1. Because they make a noise whenever they are told (tolded). 2. The one sells watches, the other watches sell. 3. One makes acorns, the other makes corns ache. 4. Miss Guri and Mrs. Sippl. 5. Into his 40th year. 6. Bear (bare) skin. 7. It shoots from the eye. 8. He possesses a good constitution. 9. The date. 10. It makes him yell "Oh" (yellow).

Curtainings.

1. Carl-car. 2. Earl-car. 3. Bear-bear. 4. Forth-fort.

Logic Puzzle.

1. An acrobat is a tumbler; a tumbler is a glass; a glass is a vessel; a vessel is a ship. Therefore an acrobat is a ship. 2. The city of Warsaw was a Pole; a pole is a rod; a rod is 16 1/2 feet. Therefore, Thaddeus of Warsaw was 16 1/2 feet and a giant.

Behadings.

1. Whale-hale-ale. 2. Krout-rou-out. Who Can Read This? I understand that you undertake to overturn all my undertakings.

Hidden States.

1. Indiana. 2. Mississippi. 3. Utah. 4. Montana. 5. Idaho. 6. Colorado. Enigma. America.